

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1 and 2. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1-2, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 1 and 2. Lead lines have been added to clearly show the components indicated by the numbers. Labels are added to boxes 7, 15, and 20.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 12-20 are pending in this application, with claim 12 being the only independent claim. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Drawing Objections

In the Office Action mailed January 17, 2007, the drawings are objected to because the reference numbers are not aligned with the components they are labeling and boxes 7, 15, and 20 are not labeled. The drawings are amended to include lead lines and to include labels in all of the boxes. In view of the amendments, the objection to the drawings should be withdrawn.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner requires under 37 CFR §1.52(b)(4) that an Abstract on a separate sheet should be filed. Applicant's note that the present application is a U.S. National Stage application of International Application No. PCT/EP04/50977, a published pamphlet version of which was included in the filing papers of this national stage application. The abstract appears on the cover sheet of the published pamphlet version of the PCT application. As stated in MPEP §1893.03(e) (emphasis added):

When the international application is published as the pamphlet, the abstract is reproduced on the cover page of the publication, even though it appears on a separate sheet of the international application in accordance with PCT Rule 11.4(a). Thus the requirement of 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b) that the abstract "commence on a separate sheet" does not apply to a copy of the application (pamphlet) communicated to the designated Offices by the International Bureau under PCT Article 20. Accordingly, it is improper for the examiner of the U.S. national stage application to require the applicant to provide an abstract commencing on a separate sheet if the abstract does not appear on a separate sheet in the pamphlet. Unless the abstract is properly amended under the U.S. rules during national stage processing, the abstract

that appears on the cover page of the pamphlet will be the abstract published by the USPTO under 35 U.S.C. §122(b) and in any U.S. patent issuing from the application.

Therefore, in the present national stage application, the filing of the original Abstract on a separate sheet is not necessary.

The specification is also objected to for a minor editorial correction. The specification was amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. In view of the above amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 12 and 14 are objected to for minor informalities. The claims are amended to address the informalities in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Therefore, the objection to the claims should now be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 12-14 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0002808 (Hashimoto) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,727,549 (Tulpule).

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Hashimoto and Tulpule and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,916,698 (McCann).

Claims 16-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Hashimoto and Tulpule and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,406,485 (Wise).

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Hashimoto and Tulpule and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,568,267 (Chida).

Independent claim 12 recites a safety device for a rotation rate sensor having a sensor element and circuits, wherein the circuits include a function section, a checking section, and

a monitoring section. The monitoring section includes “a clock detector component”, “a watchdog circuit monitoring the microcomputer”, and “a memory testing device for testing memories within the checking section”.

The Examiner alleges that paragraph 0105, lines 1-8, of Hashimoto discloses the claimed monitoring section. However, that portion of Hashimoto discloses only that a watchdog timer circuit WDT 119 monitors a watchdog signal WD generated by a microprocessor and that the watchdog timer circuit WDT 119 generates a restart signal RST when the watchdog signal WD is abnormal. Accordingly, Hashimoto fails to teach or suggest that the monitoring section includes “a clock detector component”, “a watchdog circuit monitoring the microcomputer”, and “a memory testing device for testing memories within the checking section”, as expressly recited in independent claim 12.

Even if the watchdog timer circuit WDT 119 of Hashimoto is considered to be applicants’ claimed “clock detector component” and/or the “watchdog circuit” (which applicant does not believe to be proper), the watchdog timer circuit WDT 119 of Hashimoto still fails to disclose, teach or suggest “a memory testing device for testing memories within the checking section”.

Tulpule fails to teach or suggest what Hashimoto lacks. Tulpule disclose a watchdog activity monitor, but fails to teach or suggest a checking circuit or “a memory testing device for testing memories within the checking section”, as recited in independent claim 12.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, independent claim 12 is deemed allowable over the prior art of record.

Dependent claims 13-20 are deemed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as is independent claim 12, as well as for the additional recitations contained therein.

New claim 20 is added to recite that the sensor element is a vibration gyro generating an analog output signal. Support for this recitation is found at page 4, lines 5-6 or the English translation of the international application; and in Fig. 2. Hashimoto discloses a speed sensor which counts pulses. Thus, Hashimoto fails to teach or suggest the claimed safety device for a vibration gyro. As stated above, Tulpule also fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention.

The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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